

Minutes of a Special Heritage Committee Meeting  
April 22, 2014 – Town Hall – 7 p.m.

Members present: Bill Hansen, Arnie Magid, Roger Ives, Chet Kuras  
Absent: Jack Quinn, Ray Wilcox

Also present: Guest- Director of Economic Development Patrick McMahon

Chairman Hansen called the meeting to order.

Citizen Comments: None

Presentation – Chairman Hansen welcomed EDC Director Patrick McMahon to the meeting.

Mr. McMahon stated he would update the Heritage Committee about recent and upcoming commercial ventures and their status in the approval process.

CVS Pharmacy – Mr. McMahon stated that CVS has been before the Design Review Board, and the DRB had asked for changes in the exterior and roof design. He showed the members, pictures of the proposed store. The DRB approved of the site plan but had asked CVS to make architectural changes. CVS will go back to DRB for final approval and then make a formal application to the Zoning and Planning Commission. The Heritage Committee thought that the proposed store would fit Suffield well.

Ffyer Place Renovation – A new business, Garden Center has been before the Zoning and Planning Commission and has been approved. This Garden Center would be in the back of Ffyer Place and this business would be retail.

Kent Memorial Library ADA Project – Mr. McMahon showed proposed drawings and discussed the proposed ADA entrance. This would provide an elevator to the main level. Additional parking spaces will be along Bank Lane. The design will be completed in 30 days, and then will go out to bid. Funding is in place. It is anticipated to break ground this year. In addition, the HVAC and the windows will be replaced. The design was admired by the Committee.

A developer has expressed interest in developing four acres fronting Ffyer Place. Mr. McMahon showed a conceptual drawing of possible retail uses.

Mr. McMahon reported that will be renovation in the Town Hall beginning July 1 to replace the HVAC and new electrical systems.

He reported that the new restaurant, 3 Figs which has recently opened is doing well.

The Bridge Street School was discussed. There is great interest from the Parks & Recreation Department in the school. They need more room space for additional new programs and the playing field is a real asset. P&R believes that the fees charged for programs would cover the operating costs. If P&R had program space, they could serve a population of all ages. There is a need for pre-school programs.

This proposal was brought to the Board of Finance for its approval and recommendation to Town Meeting. The estimated cost of renovating this building has increased to \$3.4 Million. There is some heat in the building now and some repair has been done on the roof and gutters. The Committee discussed the many options for use by the Town. It is a valuable asset and a Town facility could serve many purposes. The Board of Finance formed an exploratory committee to verify possible and realistic financial resources and a definitive plan of community use. This subcommittee will report back to the Board of Finance.

Mr. McMahon was pleased to inform the Committee that the Board of Finance had included in its proposed budget \$300,000 for the Farmland Preservation Program.

Chairman Hansen and the Committee expressed their gratitude to the EDC Director for his up to date presentation of future Town projects and possible commercial ventures.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary HC.Spec.Mtg.April.22.2014